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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev W Awdry

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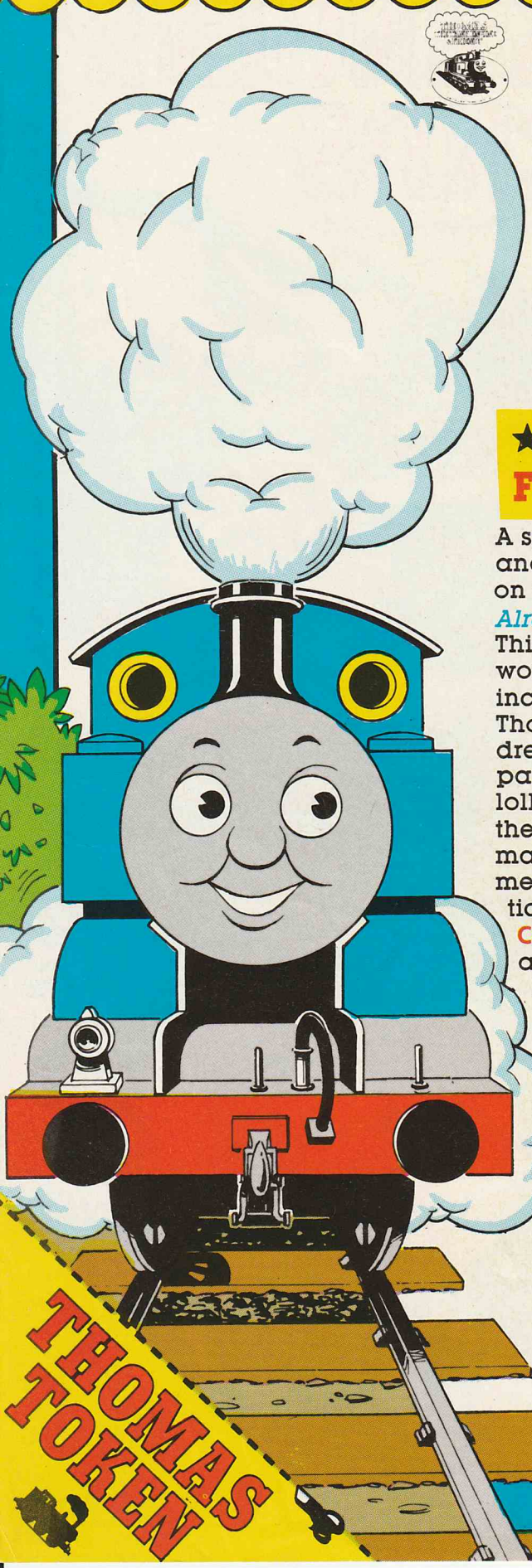
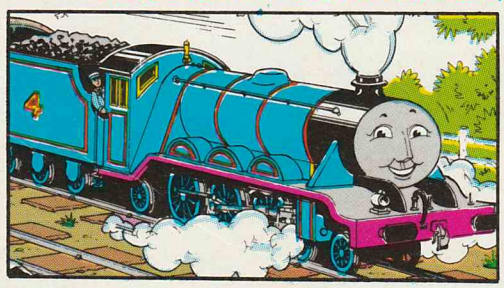
THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE



Peep! Peep! James the Red Engine is very proud indeed of his shiny red coat. He often boasts to the other engines that he is far too grand to pull dirty trucks! One day, he decides to play a trick on Thomas, just so he can pull the Express! The Fat Controller will be annoyed! Peep! Peep!

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★ FRIENDS OF THOMAS WEEKEND!

A special fun weekend with **Gordon the Big Express Engine** and other friends of **Thomas the Tank Engine** is to be held on the **9th** and **10th June** at the *Mid-Hants Watercress Line, Alresford in Hampshire.* This splendid and worthwhile event will include Thomas videos, Thomas quizzes, fancy dress competitions, party games, free ice-lollies for children, all the latest Thomas magazines from the Marvel Comics stand, a chance to meet the Fat Controller and lots more! A percentage of all ticket sales for this event will be donated to the **Wessex Cancer Trust Children's Fund!** So why not come along and see some splendid engines and at the same time help contribute to a very worthy cause?!



JOIN THE THOMAS CLUB!

Why not take out a subscription to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** and be sure of having your issues delivered straight to your home?! You'll become an automatic member of the **Thomas Club** too! More details are on page 7! Alternatively, you can join the **Thomas Club** by collecting 3 tokens like the one at the bottom of this page. Send one **red, yellow** and **green** token together with a stamped addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

THOMAS TOKEN

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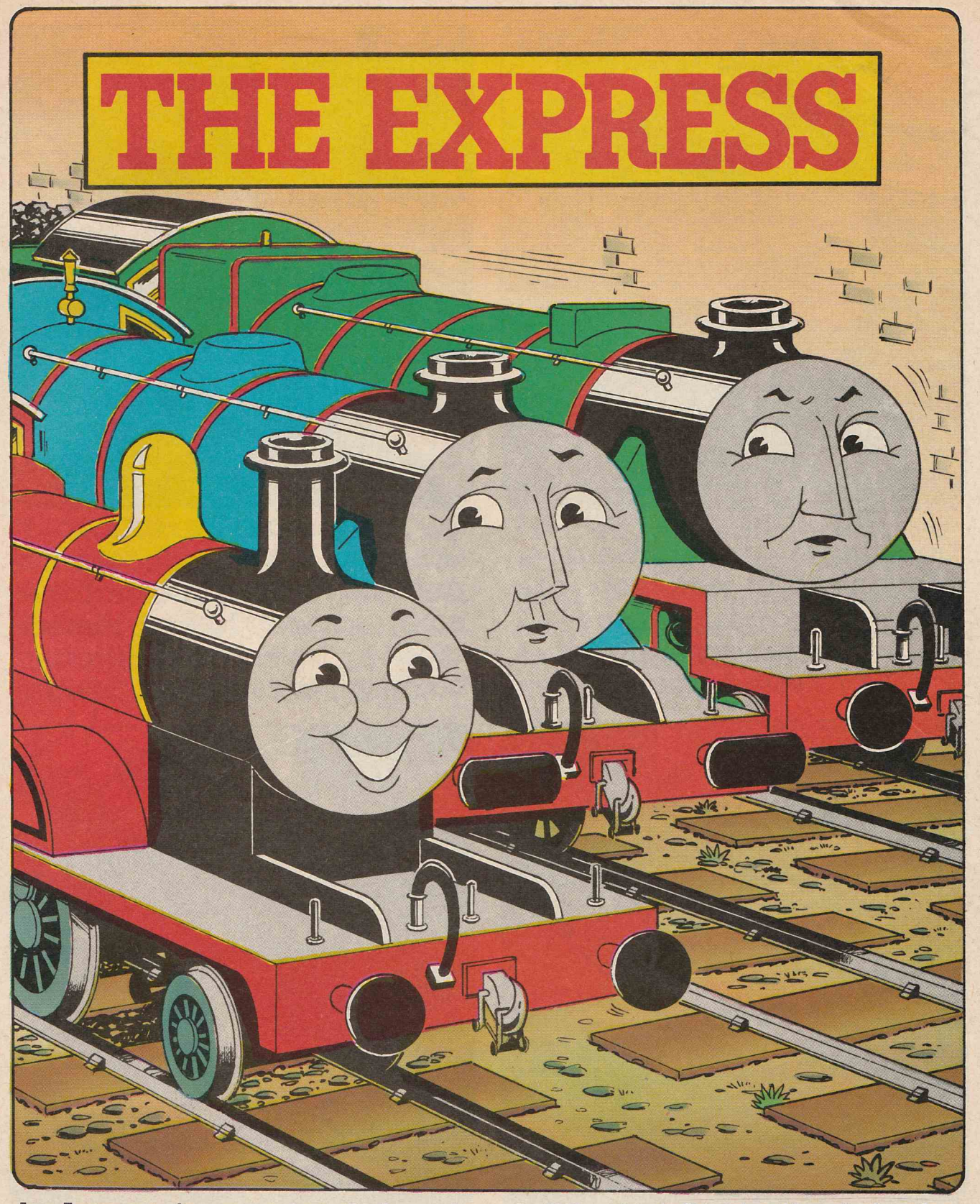
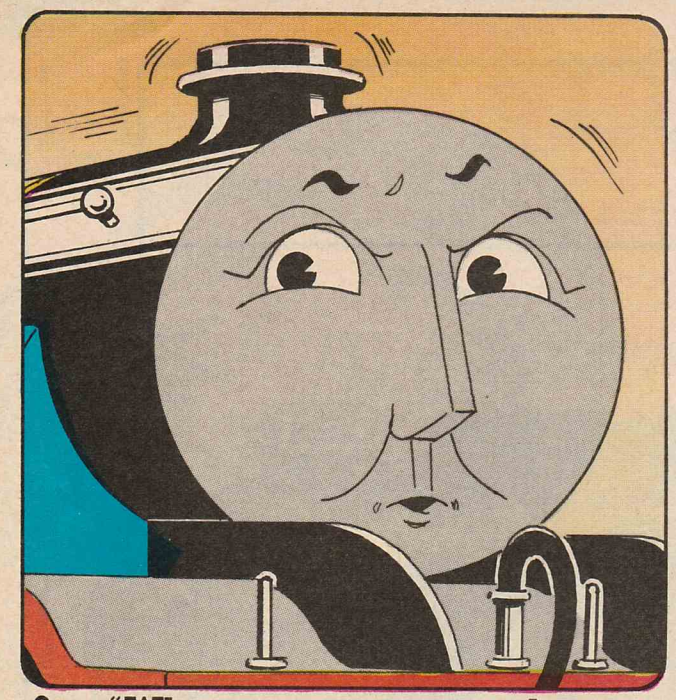
A listen and look story!

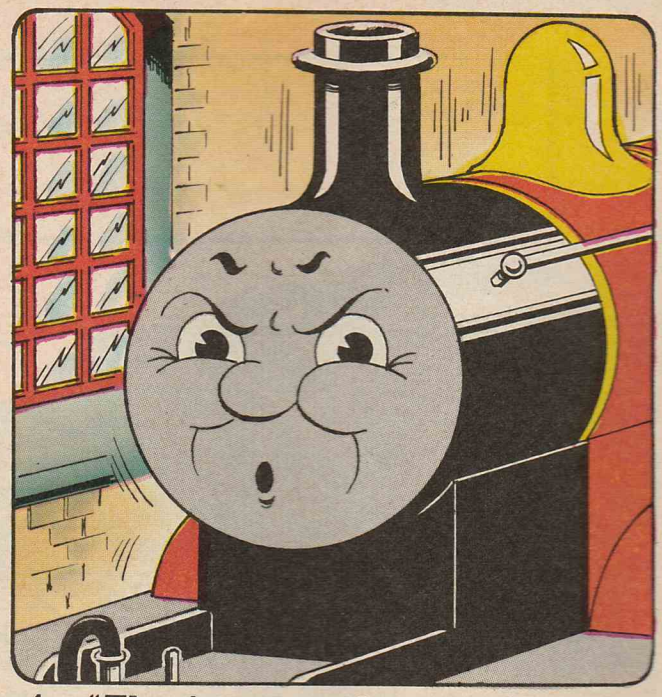


1. James is a splendid red engine. He is a Mixed-Traffic engine which means he can pull coaches or trucks. He is very proud of his red coat. Sometimes too proud . . .

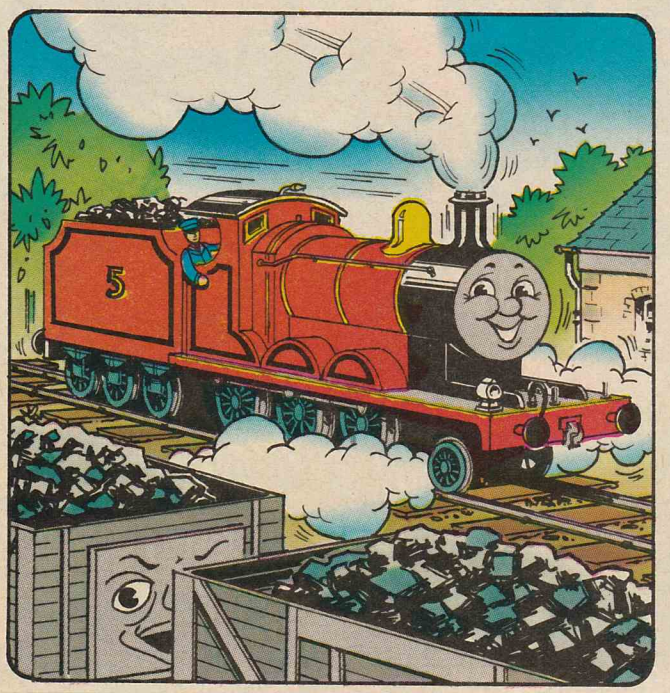
2. "The Fat Controller is lucky to have an engine as fine as me," James boasted one morning in the shed. "It is no wonder he decided to paint me this colour!"



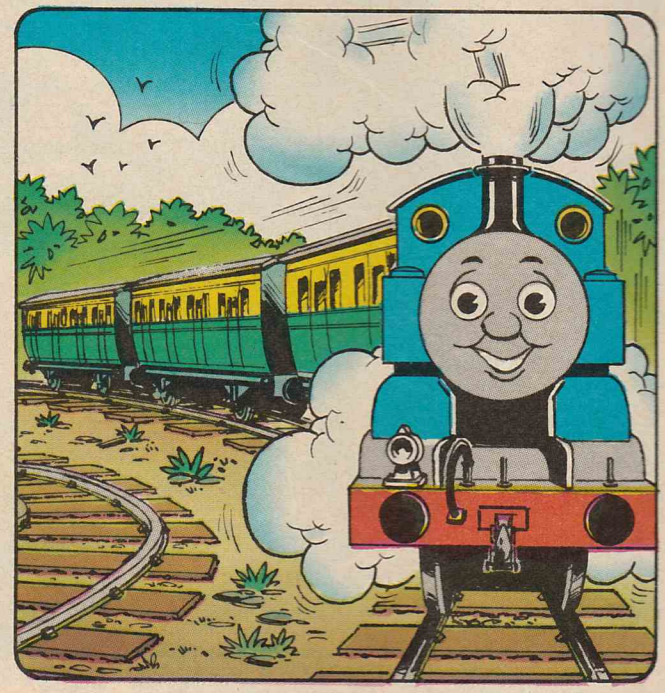
3. "Why are you always boasting?" said Gordon. "Anyone can see you are only a goods engine." I pull passenger coaches too!" protested James.



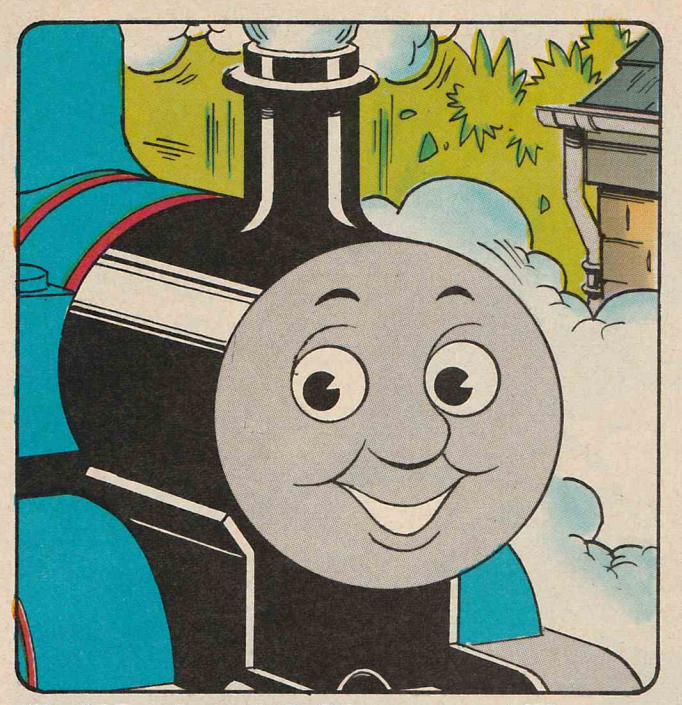
4. "That may be so," said Gordon. "But I'm chosen to pull the Express most of the time, James." James huffed crossly, "The Fat Controller has big plans for me."



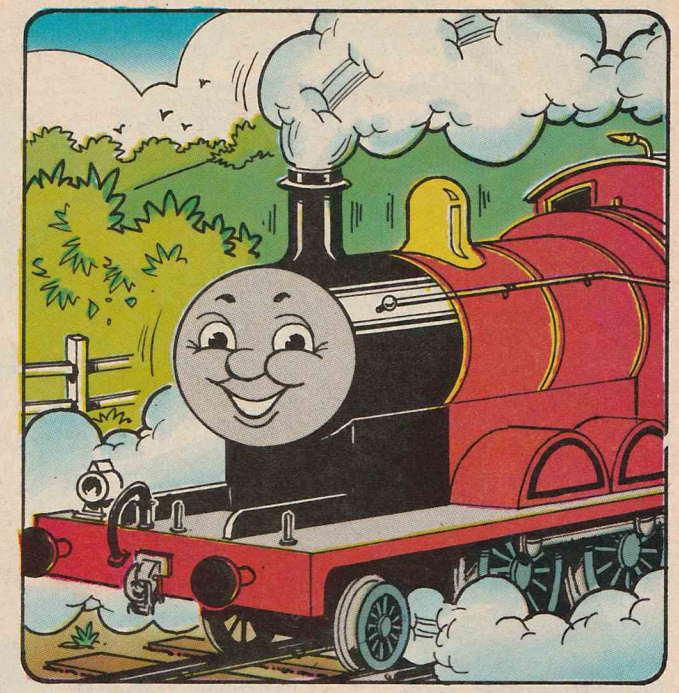
5. James's fire was burning very nicely now. His driver took him out into the yard where he saw Thomas shunting trucks and coaches for his early trains.



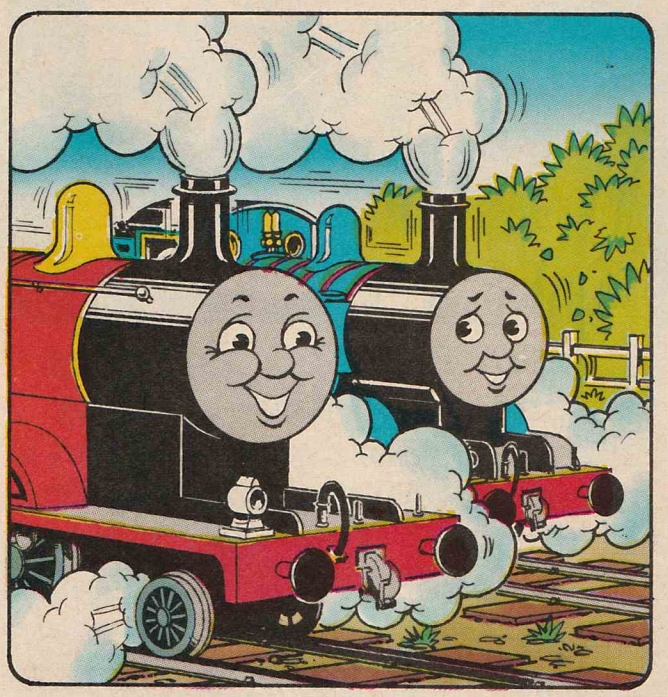
6. Thomas puffed by pulling three shiny, new coaches. "Good morning, James," called Thomas. "Are those smart coaches for me?" asked James hopefully.



7. "No," said Thomas. "These shiny coaches are for Gordon's Express. He'll be coupled up to them shortly. I have some trucks for you, James. I'll fetch them next."

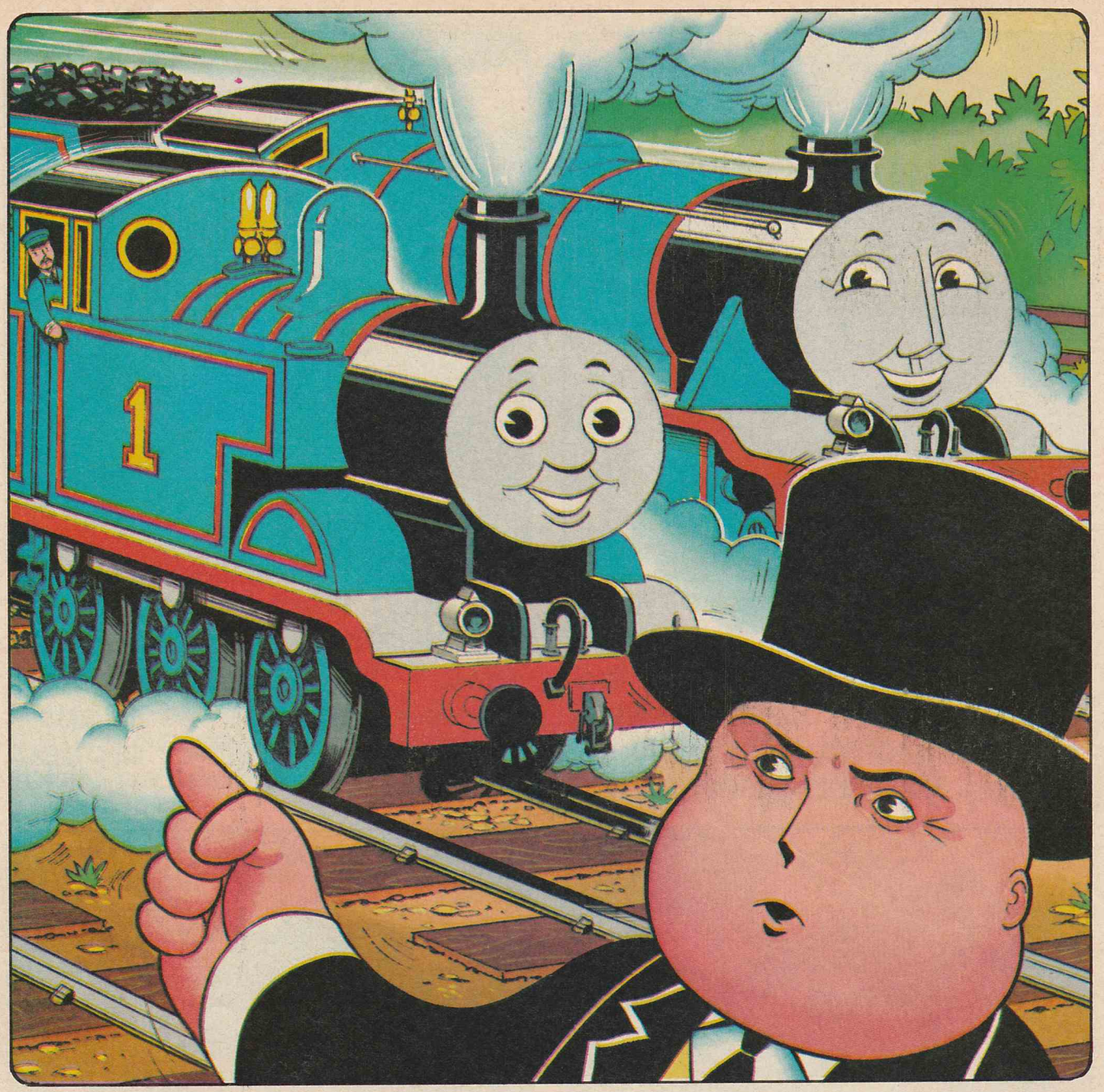


8. "Don't bother," grumbled James. Then James had an idea. "Oh, Thomas, there's been a change of plans." "Oh, I didn't know," replied Thomas.



9. "Oh, yes," said James. "Leave these coaches with me and when Gordon arrives give him the trucks." "Does the Fat Controller know about this?" asked Thomas.

10. "Yes, the Fat Controller asked me to tell you, Thomas," said James. So James was coupled to the coaches and off he went, to collect the passengers.



11. When Gordon arrived in the yard a few minutes later James had gone with the carriages. Thomas met Gordon with a long train of trucks. "What are you doing, Thomas?" protested Gordon. "Where's the Express?" "James said he was to pull the Express today," replied Thomas. "You are to take these trucks to the harbour."

12. "I'm the most important engine on this railway," shouted Gordon. Gordon's driver went to find the Fat Controller, who was not at all pleased. "This is disgraceful," he said, gravely. "James will have to stay in his shed until he has learnt to behave."

The story continues on page 17!

SUBSCRIPTION PAGE!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS MAGAZINE

- HAVE EVERY ISSUE SENT STRAIGHT TO YOUR HOME!
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- A SPLENDID THOMAS MEMBERSHIP CARD AND NUMBER FOR YOUR CHILD! (ENABLING HIM/HER TO PARTICIPATE IN A WHOLE RANGE OF COMPETITIONS AND OFFERS)

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My favourite engines are

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Name

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PHOTO

Please allow 28 days for delivery of your first magazine plus membership card!

Every fortnight!

YES! I should like my child to receive every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** fortnightly magazine by post and should like to take out a year's subscription. I enclose a cheque/postal order for **£15.00** to include postage and packing. Overseas subscribers **£30.00**. Please enrol my child as an immediate member of the **Thomas Club** if he/she does not already belong. I look forward to receiving our splendid **membership card!**

Mr/Mrs/Ms ..... Age of child .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Signature I AM OVER 18 .....

Please make cheques/ postal orders payable to **Marvel Comics Ltd.**

Send off this form, together with your remittance, if applicable, to: *Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends subscriptions, P.O. Box 500, Leicester LE99 0AA.*

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I wish to pay by Visa/MasterCard; please charge to my account. My card number is (13 or 16 digits):

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This perfect complement to your child's favourite fortnightly magazine is full of educational features, delightful activities and big, colourful pictures!

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..... Postcode .....

Signature I AM OVER 18 .....

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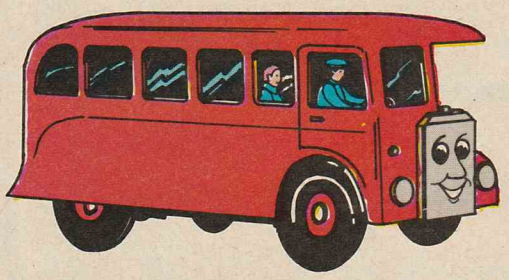
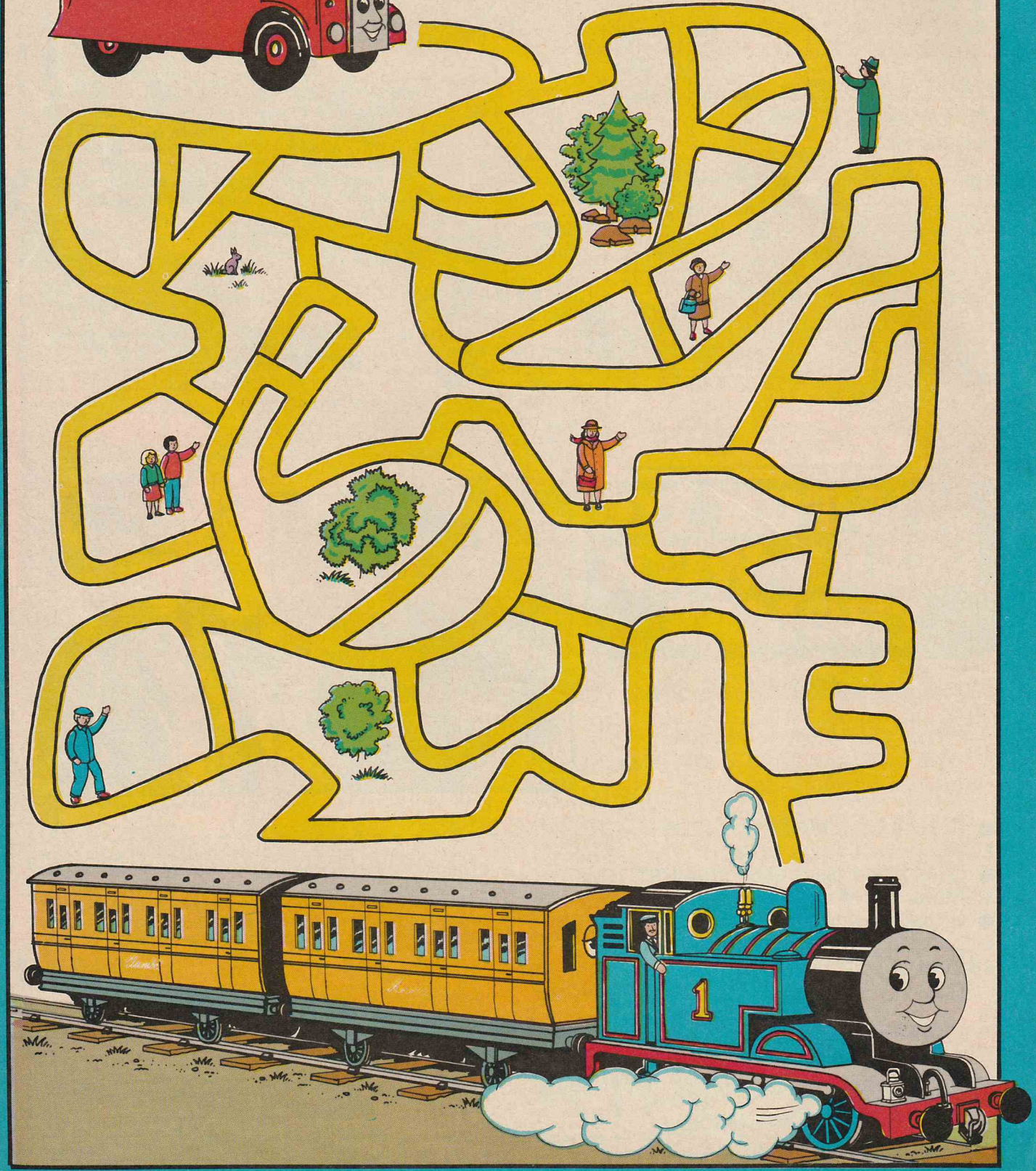
Signature

Expiry date /

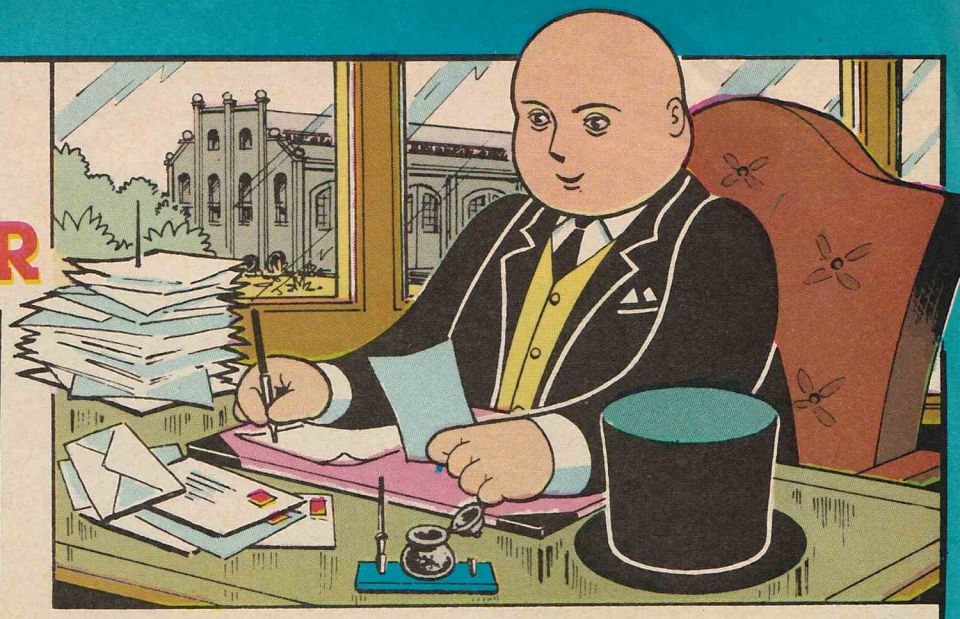
THOMAS'S MAZE!



Thomas is waiting for his passengers. Can you guide Bertie the Bus through the country lanes to meet him? Don't forget to pick up all the passengers on the way!



Write to the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

★★★★★★★★★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
There is a model amusement train outside our local shop and my Mummy lets me have a ride on it when I am good! I pretend to drive **Thomas the Tank Engine** and always shout peep peep! Sometimes my Mummy treats me and then I have two rides!
Love from **Jamie,** aged 3.
Gracious me! *What a lucky young fellow you are! I wonder if you ever pretend to drive any of the other engines too? I do hope so!*

★★★★★★★★★

Jamie wins a splendid Thomas the Tank Engine remote control toy from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

FAVOURITE NAME!

Dear Fat Controller,
I'm writing to tell you about my baby brother. His name is Stephen Thomas Tyrer. My Mummy let me name him after **Thomas the Tank Engine.** He is very mischievous and always stands in front of the television when I'm watching my Thomas video!
Love from **Lee,** aged 3.
Upon my soul! *I must congratulate you on a splendid choice of names for your younger brother! Maybe he likes to stand in front of the television when you play your video because he is a keen Thomas fan too?!*

STROLLING ALONG!

Dear Fat Controller,
Do you ever go for walks and then return home for tea?
Love from **Basi,** aged 5.
Indeed I do! *There is nothing more refreshing than a splendid stroll in the fresh country air, followed by a relaxing cup of tea! With the occasional biscuit or two, as well!*

BIRTHDAYS!

Martin Clarke, James Micley (9462), Paul Atkins, Jane Robertson, Anthony Elmes (32045), Alberto Lagoa (19939), Stephen Greeno, Edward James Humberston (8472), Jamie Fowler (25106), Stephanie Power, Wayne Leveritt, Steven Warrier (28671), James Mitchell (29709), Nathan Hughes (28113), Iain Mathie, Craig Edwards, Robert Alan Lynch (25736), Amanda Lewis, James D.Cruickshanks (10647), Adam Pike (10171), Clare Prior (4176), David Williams, Malcom McBride, Ryan Pope (13679), Ian Sanger (31442), Benjamin Wells (17396), Sean Dawtry (28527), Thomas William Tickner (32747), James Buckles (2119), Tony Hillier (27252), Clair Armstrong, Ian Leftley (24387) and Harry Wren (29702).

If you would like a birthday mention here, just send details on a postcard, at least **9 weeks in advance**. We cannot **promise** to print all the birthdays, but we will do our very best.

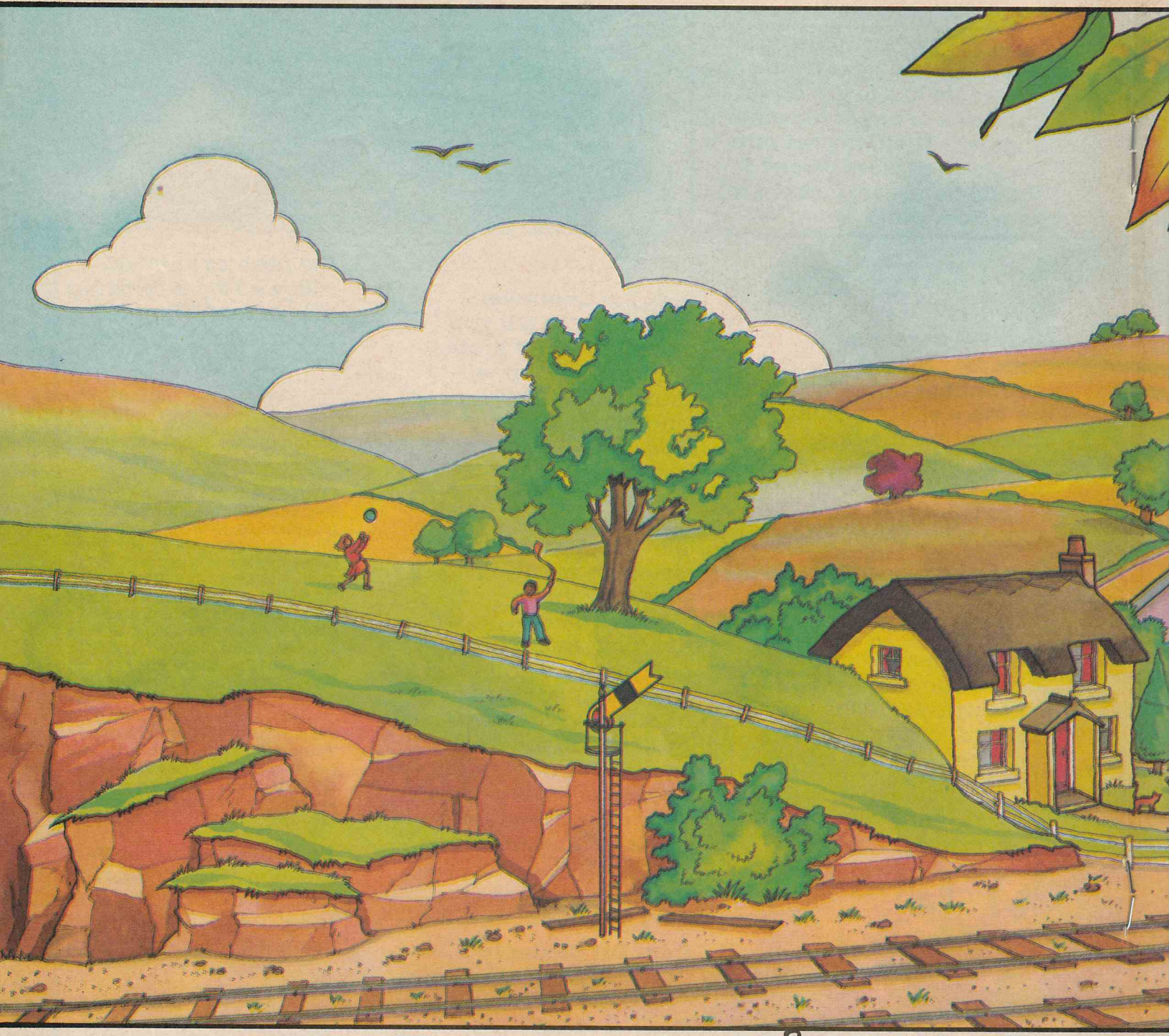
Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to: The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Past the co



Which engine can you see?

What noise do you think that he is making?

Is the signal up or down?

What is the woman by the yellow cottage doing?

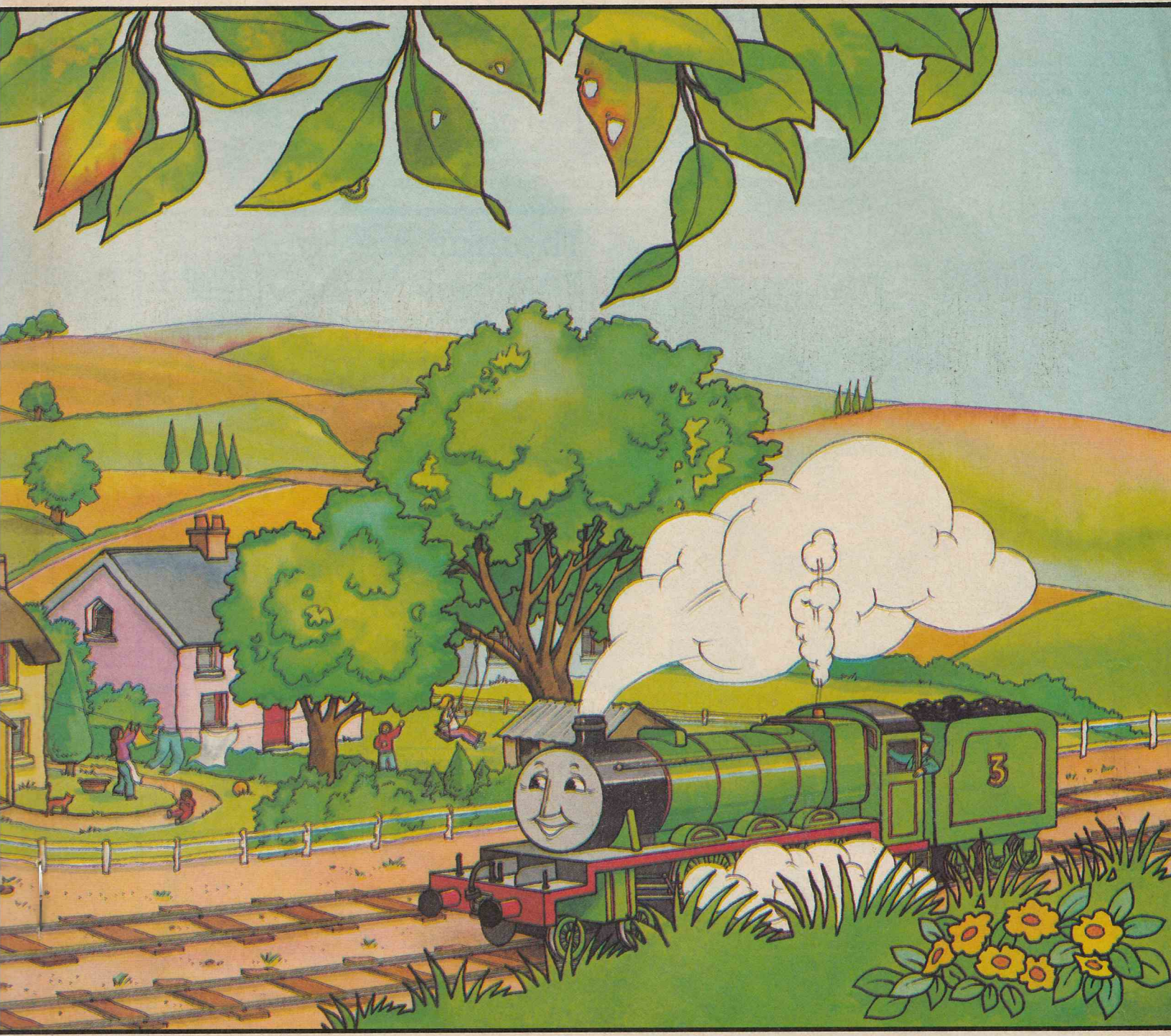
Find two b

Find a tin

Pont to a

How man

ottages!



two balls!

a tiny caterpillar!

to a cat!

many flowers can you see?

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

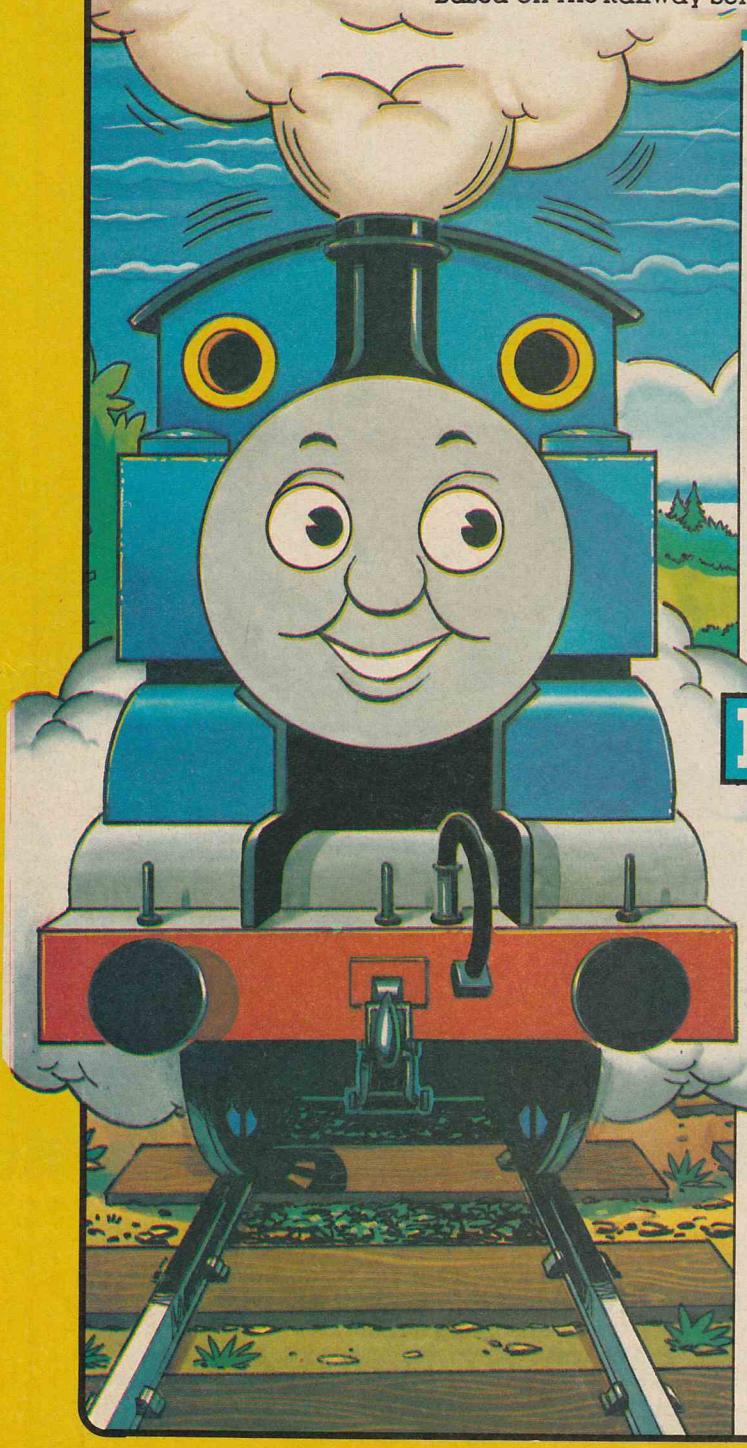
Next issue: Past the butterflies!

IT'S FUN TO LEARN WITH

THOMAS

THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



Thomas the Tank Engine and his friends learn all sorts of interesting things as they puff round the Island of Sodor.
Jump aboard and you can come too!

EVERY MONTH!

Learning is fun with THOMAS!

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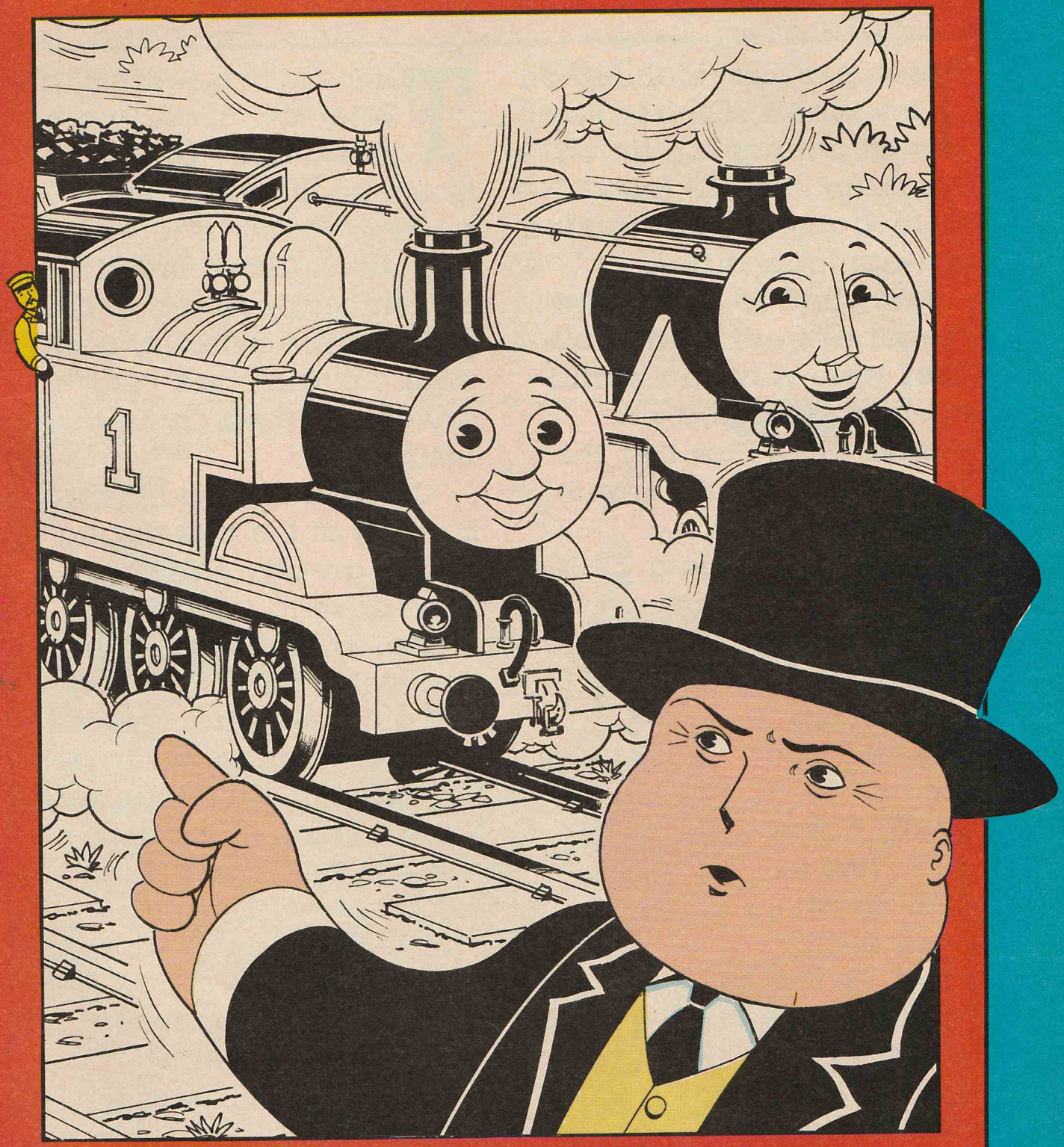
COLOURING TIME!

The Fat Controller has two engines for you
To colour in red, yellow and blue!



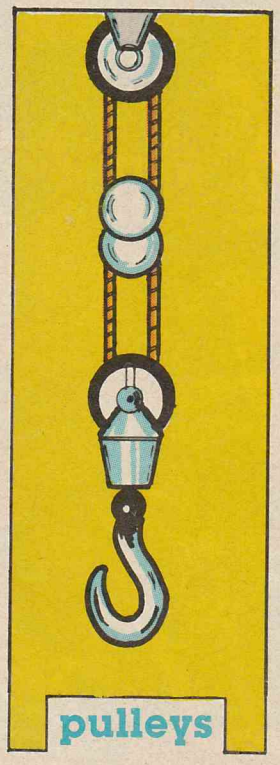
A read-aloud story!

Pulleys

It was a beautiful day on the Island of Sodor. Percy was pulling a train on the main line. His trucks were going to be loaded up with long pipes.

Percy had to wait while the pipes were loaded up. They were very heavy and the men had used tall cranes. Then they tied the pipes onto the trucks with long chains.

The pipes made a CHING CHING CHING sound as they bumped along. The trucks moaned and rattled as usual. Trucks do so like to complain! Percy didn't mind. He was listening to the funny CHING CHING CHING sound.



pulleys

Then all of a sudden, as Percy was rounding a sharp bend in the track, he felt the pipes pushing to one side. With a mighty CLUNK! One of the chains snapped loose. The pipes came crashing down from the truck and Percy's driver slammed on the brakes!

"Oh dear," sighed Percy, looking at the pipes lying on the ground. "Now we shall have to wait for a crane to come and lift those heavy things!"

"I don't see what else we can do," agreed his driver.

"I know!" said the guard. "I have some poles and some pulleys back in my guard's van. I'm sure we can pick the poles up with them."

"Pulleys?" asked Percy. "What do you mean?"

"I'll show you," said the guard.

The guard placed some warning lamps back along the track, so that other trains would know to stop. Then he went back to his guard's van to fetch the equipment.

The guard, the driver and the fireman all worked together to set up the long poles. The pulleys were like funny wheels that hung down between the poles. There were ropes going over and around them. When it was all in place, the pipes were attached. The men could pull on the rope to lift the heavy pipes up and onto the truck.

Percy was very impressed. "You men are stronger than I thought!" he cried. "Those pipes were very heavy, but you didn't need a crane!"

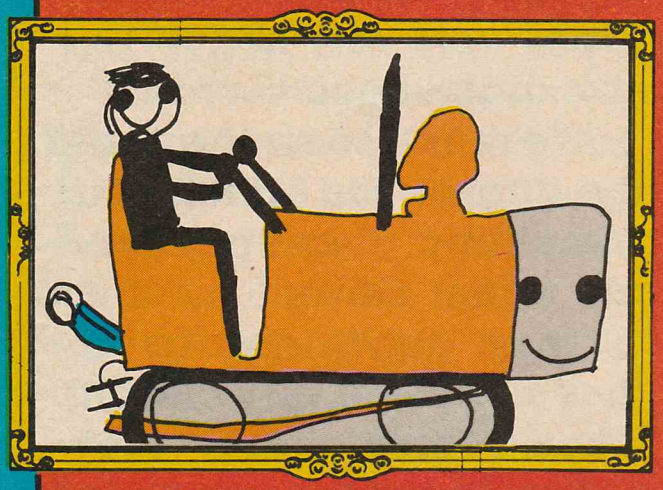
"We're not so strong," said the guard. "But I'll tell you something. These pulleys are rather clever!"

"They don't look as if they could be very clever!" joked Percy. "But they certainly get the job done!"

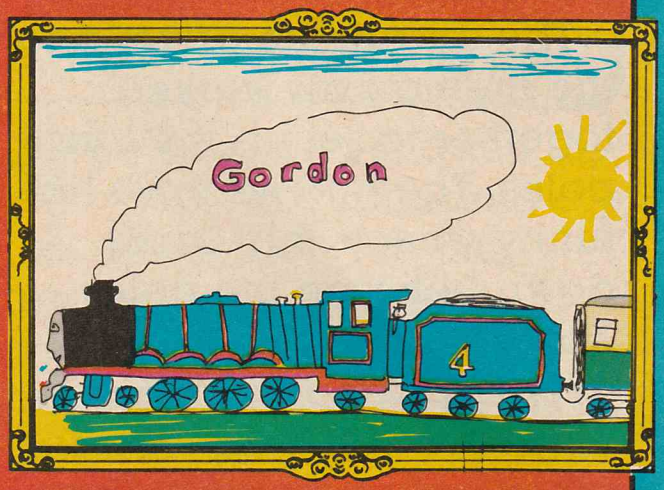
THE END

YOUR DRAWINGS
for the Fat Controller

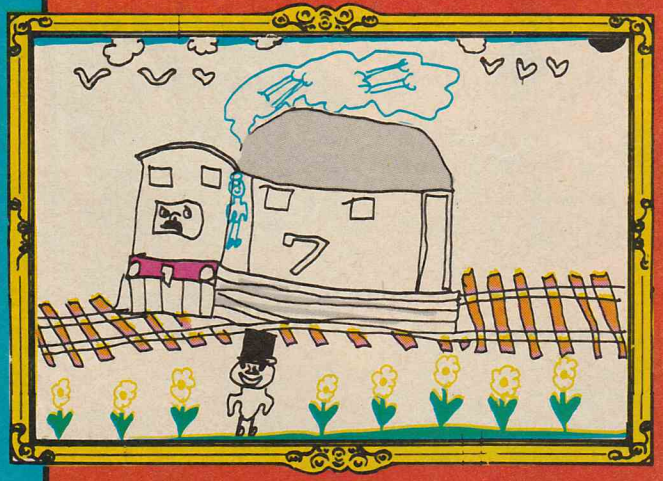
Here are just a few of the many splendid drawings that you have sent in for us. Can you see your picture?



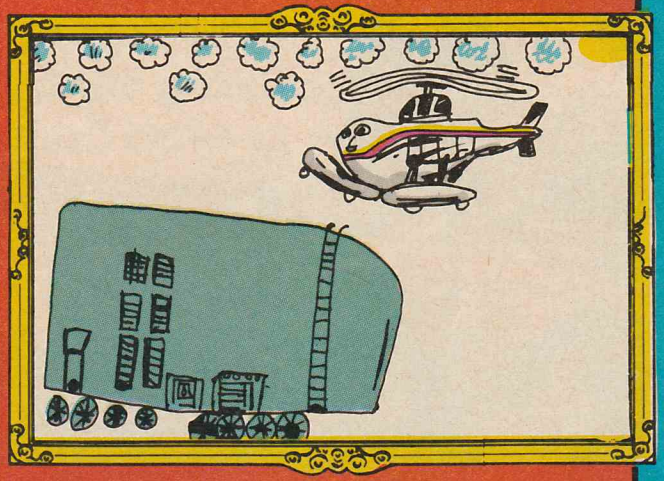
Here is a picture of Terence the Tractor, happily going about his work! It was drawn by **Richard Oliver,** aged 5, from Worcestershire.



Gordon the Big Express Engine looks rather grand as he powers his way along his line. This splendid picture was drawn by **Mark Pile,** from Kent.



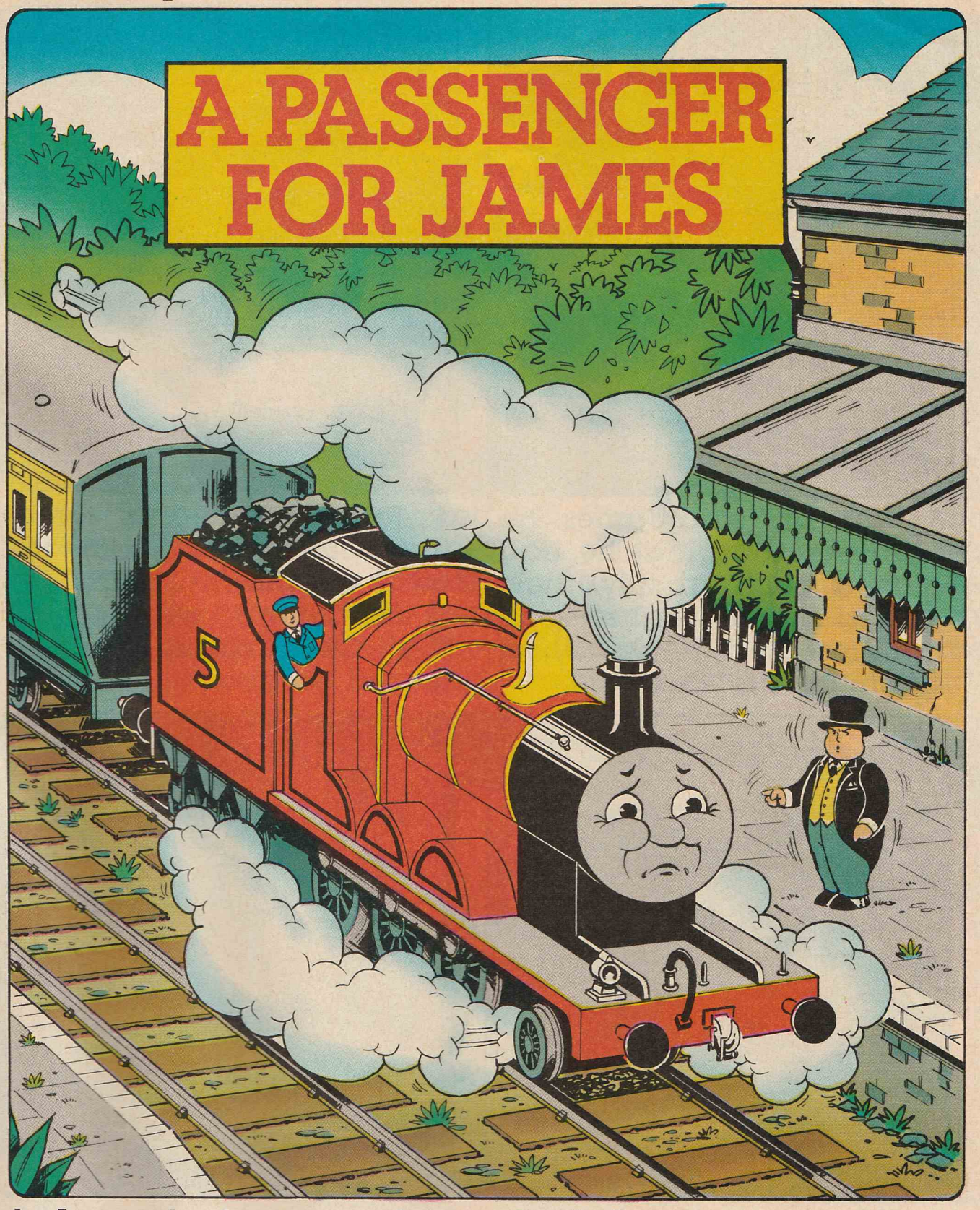
Here is a picture of Toby the Tram Engine passing the Fat Controller who is standing in a flowery field! It was drawn by **Philip Murray,** from Glasgow.



Can you see Harold the Helicopter flying high in the sky? This splendid picture was sent in by **Philip Murphey,** from Scotland.

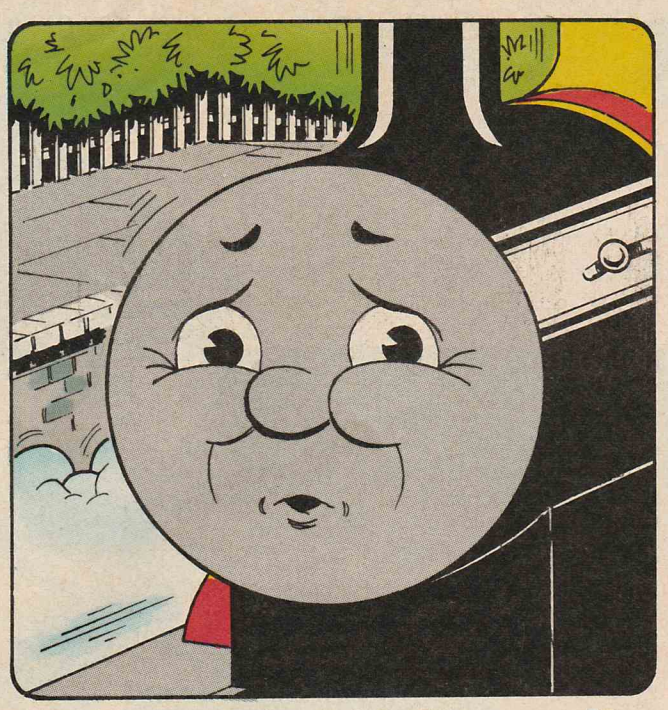
Thank you all for sending in your pictures – we are sorry that we could not print every one! If you would like to draw a picture for us, please send it to: *The Fat Controller (Pictures Page), The Island of Sodor, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

The story continues!



1. James had managed to fool Thomas into giving him Gordon's coaches. James had been pleased with himself until the Fat Controller sent him to his shed.

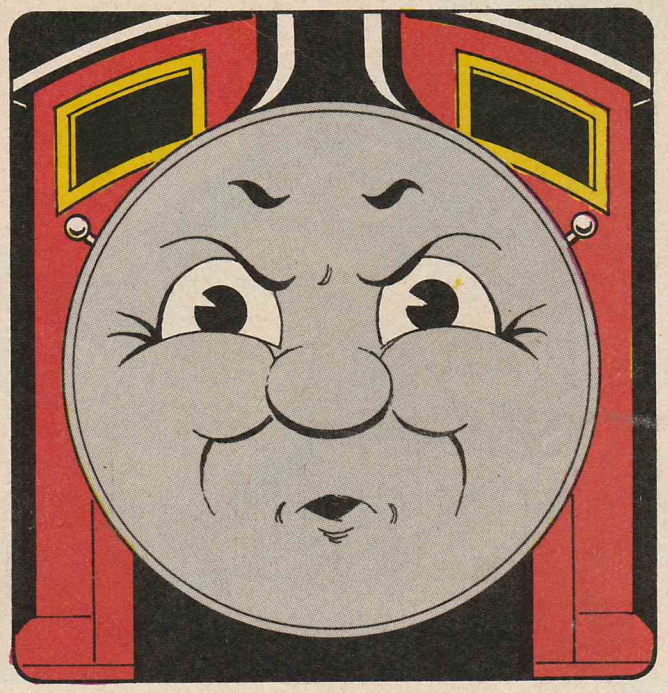
2. "A Really Useful Engine must pull trucks as well as coaches," said the Fat Controller when he let James out. "My engines must do as they are told."



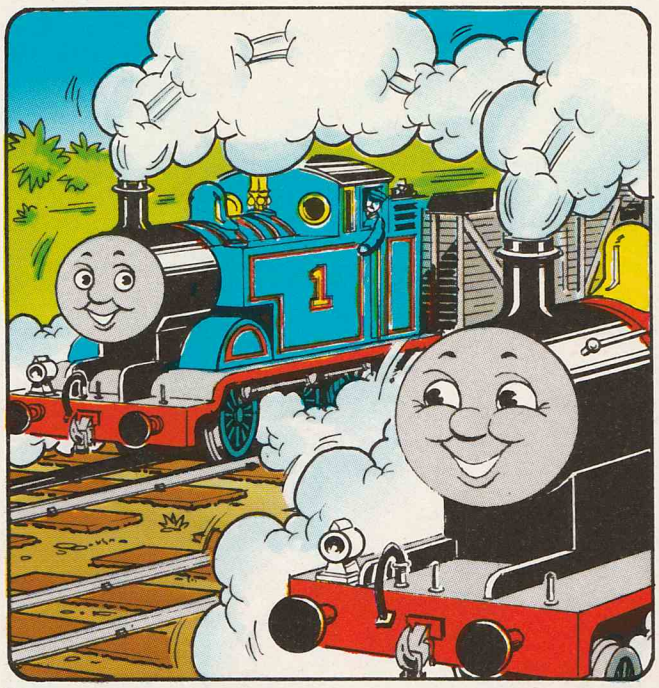
3. "Yes, sir," said James. He was very sorry that he had played such a silly trick. James would rather pull troublesome trucks than be shut in his shed!

4. James wanted to forget the whole thing, but the other engines didn't let him, "I wonder who will be pulling the Express today?" teased Gordon.

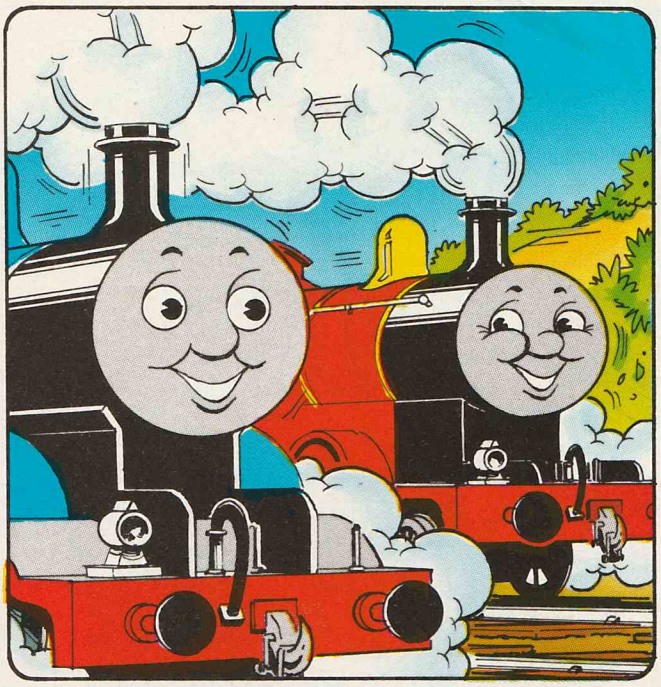
5. "**You** must be pulling the Express, Gordon. James will not want to be shut up here in the shed again," said Henry. The engines all laughed and James felt sad.



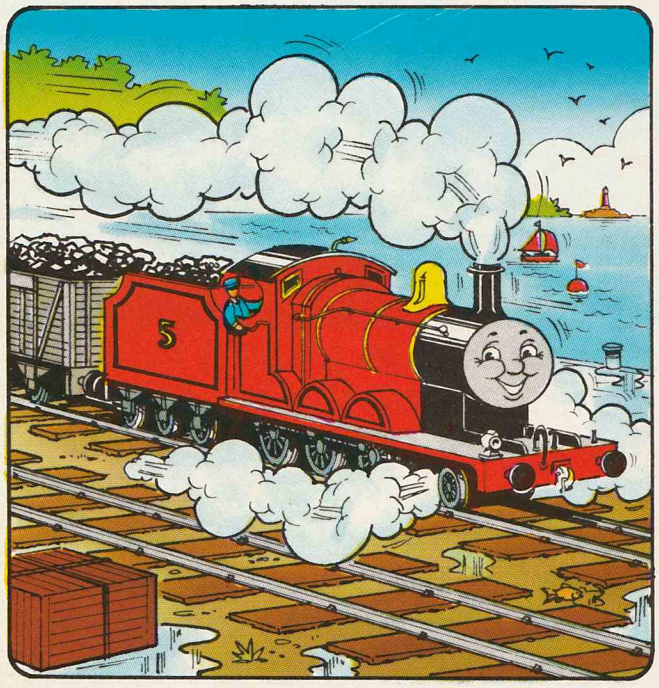
6. "How dare they all make fun of me!" he fumed to himself. "I'll show them what a Useful Engine I can be! I will! Just wait and see!"



7. When James was allowed out of his shed he met Thomas shunting trucks. "Are those my trucks?" said James. "Yes!" replied Thomas.

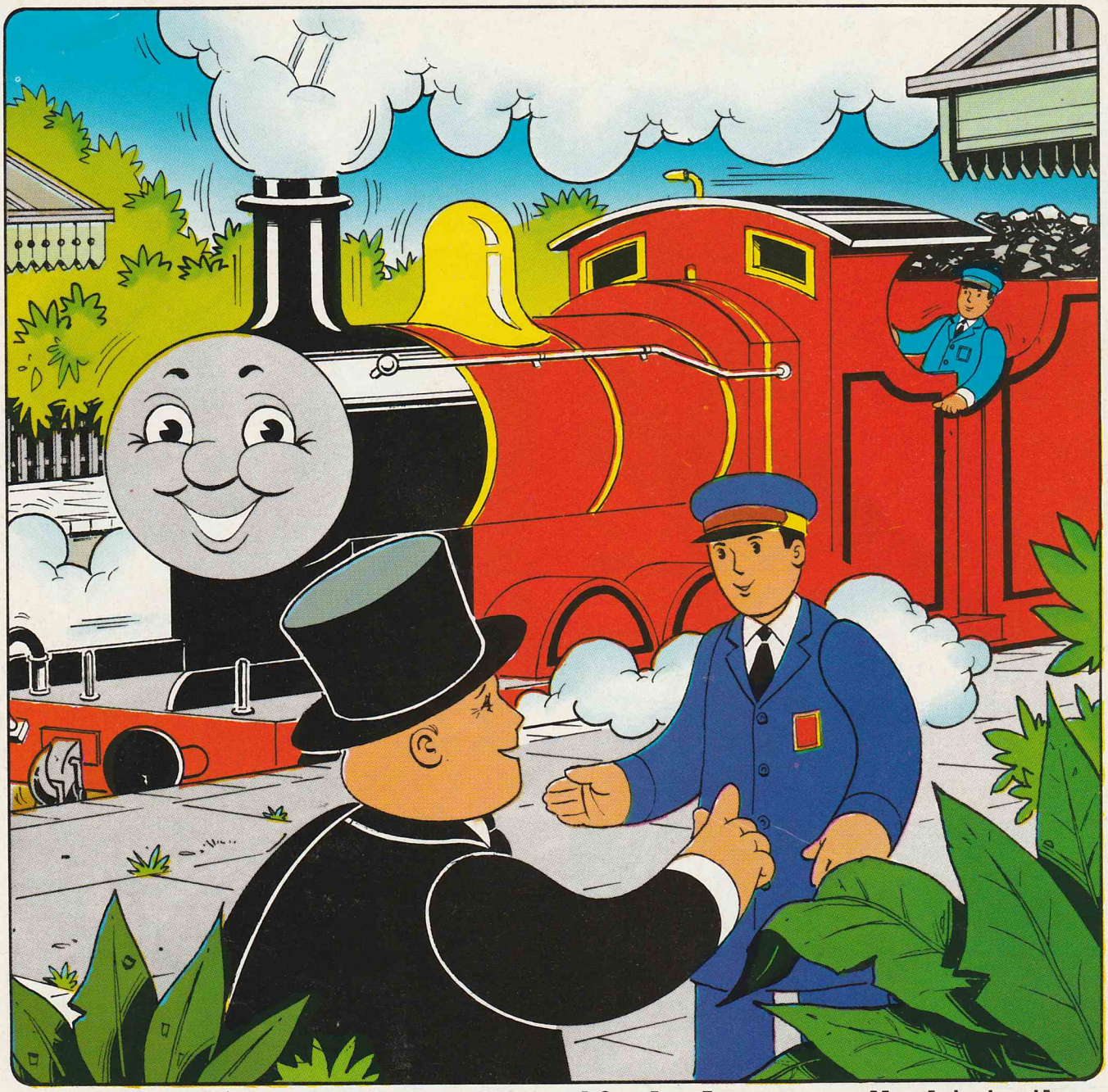


8. "I'm sorry I tricked you into giving me Gordon's coaches," said James. "Never mind," said Thomas kindly. "The trucks are pleased that you are back."



9. James was coupled to the trucks and off he went with his goods train, trucks a-rattling, down to the Harbour where he busied himself shunting trucks.

10. "Excuse me!" called a man to James's driver. "I'm a Railway Inspector just over from the mainland. I wonder if I could ride to the Main Station with you?"



11. "I have a meeting with Sir Topham Hatt," said the man, "and I don't want to be late." "I don't see any reason why you can't ride with us!" said James's driver. James puffed out of the harbour importantly. "I am carrying a Railway Inspector!" he whistled happily. "We're coming along, we're coming along," sang the trucks.

12. As James pulled into the Main Station the Fat Controller was waiting on the platform. "Good morning, Sir Topham Hatt!" shouted the Railway Inspector. "My boat arrived late and I missed my train, but this clever engine brought me here." "Well done, James, you **are** a Really Useful Engine," said the Fat Controller proudly.

THE END

In our next issue: The post train!